



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL - 9 2010

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable David Wu
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3701

Dear Congressman Wu:

Thank you for your letter of June 21, 2010, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concerning the potential economic impact, and ultimately, the impact on jobs of the upcoming proposed standards for industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers and process heaters (the Boiler MACT). I understand your concerns that these new standards could impact small and mid-size businesses across the country, including the wood products industry facilities in Oregon. As you know, the Administrator signed the proposed standards for hazardous air pollutants (HAP) from boilers and process heaters on April 29, 2010.

Section 112 of the CAA allows EPA to divide the source category into subcategories. For this MACT rulemaking, we have proposed emission standards for eleven subcategories based on the diversity of units and differences in operational characteristics. In developing the proposed limits, we have considered the variability in emissions due to operation, fuel, and testing. During the proposal process, we discussed the merits of each approach with all parties who have taken an active interest in this rulemaking. We held meetings with stakeholders from numerous individual companies, environmental groups, trade groups, State and local officials, and other interested parties. I can assure you that as we develop the final standards, we will consider your concerns and those of the wood products industry. We are currently accepting public comment on the proposed rulemaking, and are committed to considering input from all stakeholders and developing final standards that are legally defensible, protective of the environment, and can be achieved by well-operated and controlled sources.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Cheryl Mackay in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 564-2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina McCarthy", is written over a large, loopy flourish.

Gina McCarthy
Assistant Administrator